(e) and (f). The decision of the Government will be based on the factors of suitability and within the ambit of the eligibility criteria prescribed under the recruitment rules.

(g) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Revival of Small Scale Industries in Bihar**

5635. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to promote Small Scale Industries under the minimum common programme; and

(b) if so, the details of the SSIs proposed to be revived in each State particularly in Bihar under the above programme, alongwith their locations ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Promotion of small scale industries is a part of the minimum common programme of the Government.

(b) As per the data collected by Reserve Bank of India from the Scheduled Commercial Banks, total number of sick small scale units as at the end of March 1995 were 2,68,815. Of these, 15,539 units were considered as potentially viable. Banks have put 10,371 viable units under nursing. There were 26,749 sick small scale units in the State of Bihar as at the end of March 1995. Of these, 367 units were potentially viable. Banks have put 289 units under nursing.

Based on the Nayak Committee recommendations, RBI has advised banks on modified definition of sick SSI units, reduced rate of interest for rehabilitation, prompt viability studies/nursing programmes of identified sick units, setting up of cells at important regional centres and Head Office to deal with sick industrial units and provision of expert staff, including technical personnel to look into technical aspects. State Level Inter Institutional committees exist under the chairmanship of Secretary Industries of the State Governments for revival of sick units.

**Insurance Claims of Vehicles**

5636. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the time taken in settlement of insurance claims of vehicles by insurance companies;

(b) the number of claims received during each of the last three years in this regard, company-wise;

(c) the number of claims pending for one year, two years and three years, separately, company-wise;

(d) whether any responsibility is fixed on any officer in case of delay in the settlement of such claims;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) While the claims relating to damage to vehicles are normally settled immediately after the receipt of requisite documents from the claimants, the Third Party claims are settled after the awards are passed by the Courts.

(b) The requisite information is as under :

(Fig. in lakhs)

| Name of the Company | Year | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 |
| National | 1.04 | 1.09 | 1.50 |
| New India | 1.63 | 1.71 | 2.14 |
| Oriental | 1.25 | 2.03 | 1.85 |
| United India | 1.47 | 1.26 | 1.30 |
| Total : | 5.39 | 6.09 | 6.79 |

(c) The requisite information is as under :

No. of claims pending (Figures in thousand)

| Name of the company | upto one year | upto two years | upto three years |
|---|---|---|---|
| National | 35.58 | 2.81 | 1.98 |
| New India | 107.68 | 16.31 | 11.34 |
| Oriental | 25.97 | 22.05 | 10.92 |
| United India | 58.65 | 25.28 | 17.19 |
| Total : | 227.88 | 66.45 | 41.43 |

(d) to (f). The companies have already initiated various measures for expeditious settlement of claims and the Conduct, Discipline and Appeal (CDA) Rules of the companies provide for necessary action in case an Officer is found guilty of any lapse.

*[English]*

**National Institute of Fashion Technology Centres**

5637. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently set up a few more Centres of the National Institute of Fashion Technology to impart best of training and to meet world standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of students are proposed to be admitted in those centres; and

(d) the other steps the Government propose to take to upgrade the technology skill of the work force employed in the garment industry ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b). Five branches of NIFT were set up at Calcutta, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Madras and Mumbai in the year 1995.